CONCORD UNIVERSITY
BONNER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD
With the cost of college rising, many students find themselves working year-round to help contribute financially towards their education. The Bonner Scholars Program affords students the opportunity to become involved in community service, rather than a part-time job, in order to receive funds to cover his/her financial need.

Concord University is the sole state-assisted public college or university to offer the unique and prestigious Bonner Scholars Program. Supported by the Corella and Bertram Bonner Foundation of Princeton, New Jersey, the Bonner Scholars community service scholarship program provides financial assistance to approximately 20 Concord University students per class year. Students enrolled in the program are expected to perform at least 140 hours of community service each semester and two summer service internships of a minimum of 280 hours per summer.

It is the ultimate goal of the program to develop experienced, knowledgeable, and committed individuals who recognize the needs of our society and each person’s responsibility to serve throughout his or her lifetime. Through service placements and bi-weekly student development training, students will graduate from Concord University with the necessary skills to flourish as individuals while making a difference in their world.

Tana Miller | Senior Intern | Class of 2019

“Bonner has helped me grow as an individual and given me opportunities to be a leader, an inspiration to others, and to stand out and make a difference.”
Students accepted into the Bonner Scholars Program are eligible to receive $1,250 in scholarship money during the fall and spring semesters and up to $2,500 in stipends and expense money for each summer internship. Upon graduation students may be eligible to receive an additional $2,000 to apply towards student loans or graduate school. For students who meet all program requirements throughout their four years, earnings can total over $17,000!

Not only will students benefit financially, but through service engagement students will have the opportunity to apply classroom knowledge to meet human needs and to think critically on how to develop solutions to community-wide social problems. Students will experience and foster individual growth through service-learning as they begin to interconnect the theoretical and practical.

| Scholarship                     | $10,000 |
| Summer Living Funds            | $2,000  |
| Summer Earnings                | $3,000  |
| Rising Senior Enrichment Grant Financial Supplement | $500 |
| Senior Loan Reduction (Upon Graduation) | $2,000 |
| **Total:**                     | **$17,500** |

Concord University seeks applicants who have demonstrated a commitment to community service, academics, and leadership who but have a documented financial need to attend college.

We are looking for individuals who (1) meet the academic standards required for admission to Concord University, (2) graduate in the top 40% of his/her high school class, (3) demonstrate that he/she has held a role with significant responsibility at home, in church, at school, or in his/her community, and (4) has an expected family contribution below $10,000 and/or has demonstrated financial need based on the results of the Free Application Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Interested individuals should (1) apply and be accepted for admission to Concord University, (2) complete the Bonner Scholars *Application form by **February 1st, and (3) ***complete a FAFSA.

*Application materials can be found at http://www.concord.edu/bonner/

** Students who are currently enrolled at Concord University may apply at any time.

*** International students do not have to complete the FAFSA form.
Bonner Scholars are expected to participate in intentional training & enrichment activities throughout each semester, such as Class and All-Bonner Meetings. Class meetings offer students a time to reflect on their service experience and/or develop one of 24 personal, leadership, or professional skills, whereas All-Bonner meetings provide an opportunity for students to explore one of the six Bonner Common Commitments. Through exploration of the Bonner Common Commitments, students find deeper meaning to their service and become more effective agents of change.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
CONNECTING SERVICE + ACADEMICS

Students will learn how to advocate for fairness, impartiality, and equality; participate intentionally as a citizen in the democratic process; engage in public policy; establish and sustain a vibrant community of place, personal relationships, and common interests; explore personal beliefs while respecting the spiritual practices of others; develop an international understanding to participate successfully in a global society; and respect many different dimensions of diversity in his/her public lives.

Complementing the Bonner Scholars Program is Concord University’s dedication to develop individuals who are committed to social responsibility, community service, and civic engagement. The University, which has a long history of involvement in the local community, seeks to provide students with service-learning curriculum in order to heighten their ability to apply classroom theories to practical situations.

Service-learning begins as early as the Bonner Scholar’s freshman year when he/she enrolls in Social Work 350: Introduction to Community Service. This 3 hour, for-credit class is required of all freshman Bonner Scholars. Students will learn about and discuss problems and policies that affect our society today. Social Work 350 is an extension of Bonner Orientation, helping students to begin building a knowledge base that will allow individuals to understand why there is a need to serve within society and how he/she can be an effective community servant.

For students who wish to pursue social work, service-learning, and/or community-based research, Concord University offers a Civic Engagement Minor. While this is not a requirement for Bonner Scholars the option is available. The degree program focuses on domestic and international poverty and can easily be blended with the student’s primary service interests.
Concord University seeks to bring students to learn in order to prepare them to serve. Outside of the classroom, the Bonner Foundation’s “Five E’s” student development framework provides the optimal opportunity for students to assume increasing responsibility and leadership roles as he/she develops socially, personally, and academically.

Each prospective Bonner Scholar begins with an Expectation of what it might be like if he/she were accepted into the Bonner program. During the Scholar’s first year however, he/she moves into the Exploration stage. Students become acquainted with Bonner requirements and have the opportunity to explore various service opportunities as it relates to his/her skill-set and academic interests. By the second year, students are encouraged to select a primary service site as they enter into the Experience stage. Students in this stage engage in critical dialogue and reflection in order to more accurately articulate their views about service and commitment to others.

COME TO LEARN,
GO TO SERVE

Students also accept greater roles within their service site and learn how to participate effectively in a sustained community partnership. As Bonners enter into their third year they often assume project coordinator responsibilities, such as recruiting, monitoring, and learning reflections for other students. Students serve by Example and learn how to become a successful peer and community leader. Students finally progress to the fifth and final stage entitled Excellence. This stage is marked by the Scholar’s ability to take on project leader roles and responsibilities, such as evaluating existing programs, designing new initiatives, and drafting grant proposals.

Because of the intentional student development model, we believe graduates of the Bonner Scholars Program are more prepared to enter the workforce than students who have not engaged in four years of guided personal and professional service and training opportunities.

“The Bonner program has improved my life, giving me opportunities and helping me take the initiative to do things and move forward. It also helped me realized that I have much more to offer, and that it’s okay not knowing exactly where I want to go: as long as I have an open and positive mindset I can and take the necessary steps to move forward and improve.”

Emily Davis | Class of 2019
Bonner Scholars are expected to complete two summer terms of local, national, or international full-time (280 hours) service. Summer is the optimal time to explore the world and/or embark on intensive, internship-like responsibilities to grow personally and professionally while impacting one’s community and/or nation.

The Bonner Foundation provides a $1,000 living stipend for each summer term, which can be used towards travel expenses, lodging, meals, and/or other expenses related to summer work. Many students choose to serve locally the first summer in order to roll over a portion (or all) of their living stipend to the second summer to volunteer on a more national or international level.

Students completing a summer service term will receive a supplementary $1,500 stipend to help with school expenses. In addition to the stipends provided by the Bonner Foundation, the summer term offers students the unique opportunity to receive payment for their volunteer service.

Blake Farmer | Communications Intern
Class of 2017

“Bonner has truly opened my eyes to the potential that our community has. I’m glad to have been able to continually give back to the community that has made me who I am today. I will forever be grateful for the Bonner Scholars program and all it has done for me.”
As a Bonner Scholar you will have many opportunities and experiences available to you outside of your weekly service site. For many Bonners these extracurricular requirements become the highlight of their time spent as a Scholar. All Bonner Scholars will participate in a Freshman Orientation, First Year Trip, Second Year Exchange, and a Senior Capstone Project.

**Orientation:** The Bonner Scholar Freshman Orientation is always a highlight of the fall semester. Students spend three days learning about the specifics of getting started as a Bonner Scholar, they meet other new Bonners, and gain guidance and advice from select returning Bonners who serve as orientation staff. In addition, new students have the opportunity to participate in a group service project.

**First Year Trip:** A student’s freshman year as a Bonner Scholar also includes a First Year Service Trip. During the spring semester, students spend four or five days at the Church of the Pilgrims in Washington, DC, living and working together with the National Coalition for the Homeless. Students work at various agencies that feed and serve the homeless during the first year trip. While this trip is service-focused, students also have the opportunity to visit some of the national and historical sites located throughout DC.

**Second Year Exchange:** All Bonner Scholars participate in a one or two day service trip with another local Bonner program during their sophomore year. The exchange event includes both program and service activities that allows students to connect with other Bonner schools in order to witness the benefits of working together as an entire Bonner community. Students leave the second year exchange with a broader sense of the national student service movement.

**Senior Capstone:** Students are expected to prepare a Senior Presentation of Learning during their fourth and final year in the program. This allows students to share with other Bonner Scholars and the Concord University community what he/she has gained as a result of participating in the Bonner Scholars program. Scholars often share about the agencies they have worked for, the projects completed, the lessons learned, and/or their plans for service in the future. It is a time to truly celebrate all of the great work accomplished by our Bonner Scholars!